Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. Soon after the operationalisation of the Act, this Ministry had addressed the State/UT Governments on 11.1.2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The State/UT Governments are still in the process of implementing the provisions of the Act and information of progress has started pouring in. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any information from the States so far regarding the claim applications filed for vesting of forest rights and distribution of pattas to the elgible forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

ST status to some communities in Assam

4135. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous decision to grant ST status to six communities, including Koch Rajbongshi, Ahom, Tea Tribe, etc. in Assam and the same resolution was handed over to the Ministry;

(b) whether Government is considering the said proposal in consultation with the appropriate authority, for reconsideration of issuing ST status to such communities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) This Ministry had received proposals from the State Government of Assam alongwith Resolution passed unanimously by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its sitting held on 5.8.2004 for inclusion of 6 (Six)communities of Assam namely Koch Rajbongshi, Tai-Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motak and communities belonging to Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) These proposals have been processed as per modalities approved by the Government of India on 15/06/1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists in consultation with the appropriate authority namely the Concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes as mentioned in the approved modalities. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sought additional justification from State Government of Assam on their proposal for inclusion of six communities in the ST list of Assam.

Implementation of Schemes for Tribals

4136. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency for coordination between this Ministry and the Ministry of Rural Development, for proper implementation of various schemes of that Ministry in tribal and scheduled areas and particularly for implementation of NREGP;